



UNJustice

Fair Play for the United Nations internal justice system

Thu, May 16, 2013 at 10:54 AM
10:54 AM

FROM UNJustice frontpagers TO recipients

Call for Contributors: “Citizen Working Group on Compliance with International Human Rights Law by the United Nations Organization”

From

[UNJustice frontpagers](#)

Dear All,

We trust this mail finds you well.

We wish to inform you about the new UNJustice initiative to set up a **“Citizen Working Group on Compliance with International Human Rights Law by the United Nations Organization”**, which will be mandated to draft a report on **“The situation of human rights in the United Nations Organization”**, and by this same occasion seek your kind cooperation as leading United Nations experts and human rights defenders.

Our objective is to provide an independent, participatory and authoritative civic contribution to the ongoing debate on UN reform, by highlighting the urgent necessity to ground every reform efforts on the internal respect, promotion and protection by the UN of the very same human rights legal principles that the Organization developed since 1945 (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/InternationalLaw.aspx>) and that are binding on Member States as well as on non-state actors including corporations and organizations, as provided for by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 28: “Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedom set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized”; and Article 30: “Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein”.

The generic word "group" of course includes international organizations and above all, the United Nations Organization, for evident, mere reasons of coherence and credibility, considering that serious and wide-ranging human rights issues do exist within the UN. The UNDT and the UNAT have repeatedly affirmed that the UN internal justice system lies below international human rights standards, violating the Organization's legal obligation to provide for appropriate modes of settlement of the disputes involving the UN (Section 29 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations); however, the range of human rights that can be affected by the action (or inaction) of the United Nations Organization, goes well beyond the issues that concern the UN internal justice system.

Particularly in hardship duty-stations and in field operations, security mishandling may in some cases have led to the injury or death of staff, which may engage the responsibility of the Organization in the violation of the right to life and security of the person. Labor rights are in some cases structurally violated in the United Nations Organization, particularly because of the discriminatory and arbitrary treatment reserved to different groups of contract-holders and contractors. The existing widespread problems of staff harassment and abuse of power relate to the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Also, the fundamental rights to access to information, freedom of thought and conscience, freedom of speech, are often violated within the Organization, particularly when it comes to reporting fraud and misconduct. Whistleblowers have also most often suffered from the violation of the right not to be subjected to attacks upon their honor and reputation.

Human rights violations might also go beyond the individual situations of staff members to impact on outsiders, such as on UN partners and stakeholders, as well as on various categories of rights holders and intended beneficiaries of the Organization. They may be the consequence, for instance, of the several reported cases of sexual exploitation, particularly in the context of peace keeping operations, infringing the right to personal integrity and freedom from abuse, and women's and child rights.

They may also be the result of the recent cholera outbreaks in Haiti or Zimbabwe, which seem to have involved the responsibility of the UN in the violation of the rights to life and to adequate standards of health, and of the right to an effective remedy.

For all these reasons, UN Justice has decided to set up a **"Citizen Working Group on Compliance with International Human Rights Law by the United Nations Organization"**, mandated to draft a report on **"The situation of human rights in the United Nations Organization"** and to make concrete proposals to the UN and other relevant stakeholders for a reform of the United Nations system which will

be fully grounded on human rights.

The Citizen Working Group's mandate, composition and functioning should be modeled on that of the working groups that are part of the system of Human Rights Special Procedures appointed by the Human Rights Council. It should be comprised of five main experts, who will be selected amongst the recipients of this message and amongst recognized independent international legal and human rights experts. In establishing the Citizen Working Group, the necessary attention should be given to geographic distribution, gender and broad non-discrimination considerations.

The Citizen Working Group members should in principle be (subject to discussion):

- An access to justice and the UN internal justice system research coordinator
- A civil and political rights research coordinator
- A social, economic, cultural, developmental and environmental rights research coordinator
- An international labor law research coordinator
- A non-discrimination research coordinator (to review discrimination based on gender, race, national origin or other grounds, in the United Nations).

With the overall support of UNJustice Coordinator and of the Citizen Working Group on Rights-based UN Reform Project Coordinator, the Citizen Working Group members, working on a voluntary basis, should take on main responsibility for researching, drafting, editing and circulating the report. They should count with the inputs and contributions of the wider group of UNJustice friends. They should also refer to communications of various nature received from a wide range of relevant stakeholders and rights-holders, media reports, and to the dozens of cases UNJustice has dealt with.

The report, which should be 20 pages long (plus annexes with sources and internet links), will be drafted in English and possibly translated in other UN official languages. It will be sent to the UN Secretary-General, the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC, the ICJ, UNDT, UNAT, OHCHR, the Ethics Office, OIOS, the Joint Inspection Unit, the United Nations Ombudsman, and to relevant national and international stakeholders, including Member States' Permanent Missions to the United Nations, NGOs, academia and research organizations, the press and the general public via mass media, including social media. We plan to have the report done and issued on the occasion of the 24th session of the Human Rights Council (September 2013).

We would like to kindly request those who may be interested in

participating, under various forms, in this project, to kindly send us a short e-mail by 19 May, 2013, informing us about your expertise, the role you think you may play in the project, and your availability. Should you need any clarification please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you very much in advance for your time and cooperation.

<http://www.unjustice.org/>

With all kind regards and best wishes,
UNJustice, frontpaggers

IMPORTANT NOTICE: UNJustice is a human rights defender. It brings together individuals interested in discussing matters of concern related to the administration of justice in the United Nations system of organizations.

UNJustice is not associated with the United Nations or any of its Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. Not an official document of the UN.

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Moral rights 2008 UNJustice, Non-profit Independent International Committee for the Safeguarding of Individual Rights in the United Nations Internal Justice System.

REPLY BY IFUD of Human Rights

May 15, 2013

Dear Sirs,

IFUD of Human Rights

Internet: <http://ifudofhumanrights.webs.com>

e-mail: ifudofhumanrights@yahoo.com

Project on Human Rights and holocaust education:

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/audiorarities2>

<http://ifudofhr.tradebit.com/files>

Human Rights report:

http://www.archive.org/details/EuropeanUnionLies_831

IFUD of Human Rights

BEST REGARDS,

IFUD of Human Rights

Chairman

Mr.J.P. van den Wittenboer